

REMARKS

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated February 26, 2004, and have made supplemental amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, claims 84-88 and 91-106 are pending, and claims 84 and 101 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner again for the time in the April 30, 2004 interview with the applicant's representative, and the follow-up telephonic interview on May 13, 2004. The discussions were helpful and are believed to have moved this case towards allowance, as discussed below.

Claims 84 and 101 have been amended to correct minor grammatical errors. No new matter or issues of patentability are raised by these amendments.

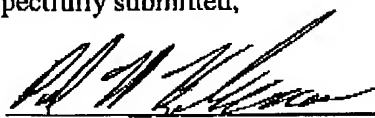
During the supplemental May 13, 2004 interview, the Examiner indicated that she felt that upon further review there was an judicially created obviousness-type double patenting issue of the pending claims with some of the claims in U.S. Patent No. 6,554,798. To obviate this, a terminal disclaimer would be required. To advance the prosecution of this application, the applicants have included the required terminal disclaimer in this application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Examination and consideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds that the application is other than in condition for allowance and believes that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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